

## The Sun.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1872.

## Amusements To-day.

**Pathe's Theatre.**—*Rehearsal and Joke.*  
**Opera House.**—*Rehearsal and Joke.*  
**Grand Opera House.**—*Rehearsal and Joke.*  
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**Opera House.**—*Rehearsal and Joke.*  
**Grand Opera House.**—*Rehearsal and Joke.*

## Terms of the Sun.

For the accommodation of up-town residents, advertisements for the Sun will be received at our regular rates at the up-town advertisement office, 515 West Third-street, corner of Broadway and Sixth-street, and 208 West Third-street, corner of Broadway and Sixth-street, and on the east side at 511 Grand-street, near East Broadway, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

## The Message.

The message submitted to Congress yesterday by the President is a very commonplace document, with very few features that will attract attention or excite discussion. It is the only message of the President's that is entirely true that everything is going along as smoothly as could be expected or hoped in the affairs of the Government, there is certainly no necessity for anything more than a business-like statement of the condition of the departments in the President's communication to Congress. It seems to have been for the most part prepared by the heads of the several departments whose accompanying reports are epitomized in it. Its most noticeable feature is the constancy and consistency with which the President approves and urges every measure that looks toward consolidation of power in the central Government, such as the granting of subsidies, the adoption of the postal telegraph system, the interference with State Governments in enforcement acts, &c.

The message opens with an expression of thankfulness for peace and prosperity at home and abroad, the only exception to which, the most devastating fire in Boston, receives a passing allusion, with a remark upon the gratifying fact that the citizens of Boston are rallying under their misfortunes in a manner similar to their fellow citizens of Chicago under a like calamity. The President then enters upon the proper business of the message, beginning with the Geneva tribunal of arbitration and the settlement of the Alabama claims and the San Juan boundary question. The declaration of the President is that the United States is a nation without a question of disputed boundary between its territory and the possessions of Great Britain on this continent. The services of Mr. Adams at the Geneva tribunal, and of Minister Bancroft in the San Juan negotiations, are gratefully appreciated, and the prompt action of her Majesty's Government in removing her troops from the disputed territory is acknowledged. The appointment by Congress of a board of commissioners to distribute the Alabama award among the claimants is recommended, as is also the appointment of a commission to act jointly with one to be named by her Majesty Queen Victoria to designate suitable money for the boundaries fixed in the San Juan settlement.

Further legislation to bring into operation the articles of the Treaty of Washington of May, 1871, relating to the fisheries and to other matters touching the relations of the United States toward the British North American possessions is recommended. Having so disposed of our relations with Great Britain, the President says: "With France, our earliest ally, Russia, the constant and steady friend of the United States, Germany, with whose Government and people we have so many causes of friendship and so many common sympathies, and the other powers of Europe, our relations are maintained on the most friendly terms."

And American exhibitors at the International Exposition, to be held at Vienna next year, an appropriation is recommended, and that the Secretary of the Navy be authorized to fit up two naval vessels to transport articles for exhibition from this country. The propriety of inviting the International Statistical Congress to meet in this country in 1876 is likewise suggested.

The death of President Juarez, of the Mexican Republic, is appropriately announced, and an additional appropriation recommended to enable the commission appointed by this Government to investigate the outrages on the Texan border to pursue their researches.

Considerable space is given to the consideration of affairs in Cuba, and the attention is said to be unchanged from a year ago, the insurgents having gained no advantages, and having no greater prospects of ultimate success, while Spain, on the other hand, has not succeeded in repressing the insurrection. The continuance of the strife is attributed to the institution of slavery, and it is mentioned with regret that many citizens of the United States hold slaves in Cuba. "In defiance of the spirit of our own laws," such legislation as may be proper to denounce, and if not prevent, at least discourage American citizens from holding property in slaves, is recommended.

Our relations with the Central and South American Republics are represented to be friendly, although Venezuela has made no further payments on account of the awards under the convention of April, 1866, and the attention of Congress is called to the subject.

An appropriation is recommended for the support of four American youths in the official families of our Ministers to China and Japan to learn the language and customs of those countries.

It is recommended that the provision which is made by law for the relief of distressed seamen in foreign countries be extended in behalf of all American citizens in distress abroad.

The condition of the Treasury is set forth at length, showing a total reduction of the debt since March 1, 1869, of \$305,000,000.57. The President doubts the practicability of any further reduction in taxation. At all events, he recommends as a measure of justice to the nation's creditors that no more legislation be had upon the subject until sufficient time has elapsed to prove that it can be done and still leave enough revenue to meet current expenses, pay interest, &c.

Upon the important subject of specie payments he only says: "The preservation of our national credit is of the highest importance; next in importance to this comes a solemn duty to provide a national currency of gold, unvarying value as compared with gold, and as soon as practicable, having due regard for the interests of the debtor class and the vicissitudes of trade and commerce, convertible into gold at par." This is as round and as smooth as the utterance of the Philadelphia platform on the same subject. And means as much. The operations of the War Department, the improvements in rivers and harbors, the reports of the signal corps, &c., are referred to at length, and favorable attention is invited to the recommendations of the Secretary of War on a variety of subjects, from the adoption of a specific code of penalties to the increase of the Academy fund.

On the matter of internal improvements the President comes out strong. In view of the fact that production increases more rapidly than the means of transportation, he conceives it to be the duty of Government to provide carriage, to dig canals, subsidize railroads, &c., and discharge other functions of a paternal Government. Among the enterprises to which he invites the attention of Congress are one to connect the Mississippi Valley with the Atlantic at Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga., by water by the way of the Ohio and Tennessee rivers, and canals and slack water navigation to the Savannah and Ocmulgee rivers; and one for an extension of the Kanawha and James River canals to the Ohio by the way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. He is not prepared, he says, to recommend Government aid to these enterprises, "until it is clearly shown that they are not only of national interest, but that when completed they will be of a value commensurate with their cost." While on this subject he refers to the importance of a ship canal around Niagara Falls on the American side, and to the feasibility not only of connecting the Mississippi with tide water on the Atlantic, but of an almost continuous land-locked navigation from Maine to Mexico.

The message urges the modification of the franking privilege, to "correct its glaring and costly abuses," and recommends the appointment of a commission to consider the best method of acquiring title to all the telegraph lines in the country with a view to the adoption of the postal telegraph, although he thinks it is not probable that the subject can be disposed of at this session. Only three lines of ocean steamers, he says, with a tinge of melancholy, are subsidized now at the mere trifling of \$725,000 per annum, and he thinks that should be treated more liberally, and a new subsidy be granted for a line between Panama and the western South American ports. This is his method for recovering the carrying trade, which has fallen off even during the last year, and he believes an "expenditure of \$5,000,000 per annum for the next five years, if it would restore to us our proportion of the carrying trade of the world, would be profitably expended."

absorption of all State powers and State rights into the hands of Congress and the President. Can any man who sincerely believes in local self-government vote for the representative of the opposite idea? Another doctrine of the Cincinnati platform is that "no President shall be a candidate for reelection." This was a favorite proposition with Mr. Greeley. For years he has maintained and advocated it. Can any man who holds to this doctrine, as he did, seriously propose to give his suffrages to reelect President Grant?

The common sense of this whole question is simply that the electors chosen to vote for HORACE GREELEY for President ought not to vote for the man nominated by both Conventions to take his place in case of his death after his inauguration. This man is B. GRANT BROWN of Missouri. To find the right candidate for Vice-President in his place let them go to the records of the Convention by which GRANT and BROWN were first nominated. They will find that on the second ballot in that Convention the candidate who received the greatest number of votes after Mr. BROWN was the Hon. GEORGE W. JULIAN of Indiana. The electors should accordingly vote for B. GRANT BROWN for President, and for GEORGE W. JULIAN for Vice-President.

## Robeson After More Millions.

The Secretary of the Navy is very anxious to build ten or twelve experimental ships, and to destroy those upon which tens of millions have been already expended, on the pretext that the repairs have cost as much as would be needed for a fresh outfit. This is an old job in a new form, and is backed by a well-drilled lobby, who have long feasted on the good things of that department. Our navy, like our commerce, has gone to the dogs. It is utterly demoralized by the favoritism, favoritism, and corruption which have disgraced Mr. Robeson's administration.

Twenty millions of dollars, the old Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has resolved to reduce its rate of life insurance twenty percent. The reasons for this decision may be found in the correspondence published in the Standard. The expediency and propriety of such a reduction have long been canvassed by the managers and the public; and while slow to make innovations upon long-established usage, it is pleasant to note that the company and its customers are at length in substantial accord. Of course, when so substantial a concession as a reduction of twenty per cent is decided upon so radical a change, the other companies must reduce their tariffs in the same proportion. The effect will be beneficial in a twofold sense. It will place the advantages of life insurance within the reach of the humblest, while it will enhance its security, for only the strongest and most reliable companies can take the step which will follow the example of the Mutual, while the speculative and unsubstantial companies which exist mainly that they may afford profitable employment to their officers will have to go to the wall for want of support.

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No English, French, Russian, or other Admiral properly trained in the ways of his profession would dare to leave his command except upon urgent and special occasion, and with previous permission too, to trust his presence where he did not belong. The plain truth is, our squadron in Europe is a mere yacht and pleasure-seeking expedition, and the ships are used to magnify the importance of the Admiral. That is all about it. For this business the people are taxed twenty millions per annum, at the smallest figure.

## Nonsense and Sense.

The Tribune of yesterday argues in favor of the absurd proposition that the Presidential electors who have just been chosen to vote for HORACE GREELEY should give their votes to U. S. GRANT. "For the sake of the South," says the Tribune, "for the sake of the whole country, in the hope of the reforms which Cincinnati demanded, and of the non-partisan Administration which the support of all the electors would deserve and impose, we suggest what we believe to be the legitimate deduction from Mr. Grant's own latest teachings—the cutting of his head off by the sword."

It is evident that the author of this silly counsel has never understood that any principles were at issue in the recent canvass, and has not believed the spasmodic denunciations of Republican corruption and misgovernment which have from time to time flowed from his pen.

This writer has the presumption to affirm that Mr. GREELEY would have given the same advice. The enemies of that great man in his lifetime have never said anything more injurious to his good name or more outrageous to the respect cherished for him by his friends.

Some of the principles laid down in the Cincinnati platform were afterward reaffirmed by the Republican Convention at Philadelphia; but the most important of them were not. First of these was the assertion of the ancient and honored Democratic doctrine of local self-government, independence of the States within their proper sphere, the preservation of the *habeas corpus*, and the observance of the constitutional limitations of Federal power. This was one of the great ideas represented by HORACE GREELEY in the canvass. Opposed to it was the principle of centralization and of the overthrow and

defaulted Provincial Assemblies. It is believed that this plan, which would virtually extinguish the hereditary principle in Prussian legislation, has the support of the Crown Prince, who is a pronounced Liberal. The probability of success of such a change would be likely to have a decided effect upon the impending action of the Prussian nobles.

The deadlock in the North Carolina Legislature on the election of United States Senators for continuance, and the possibility that no conclusion will be reached before an adjournment, the practice in that State is to adjourn over the holidays and reassemble in January, when the new State officers—in this case the old ones, who were re-elected—are sworn in. A strong effort is in progress on the part of the friends of JOSEF POOL to keep the conservative strength divided between VANCE and McPHILMON, in the hope that POOL himself may rise in by hook or by crook. The law of Congress of 1867, which provided for the election of United States Senators, provides that if no election is had upon a concurrent vote of the two branches of Assembly they shall meet in joint convention every day of the session, and take at least one ballot for Senator until a choice is effected or an adjournment is had. The North Carolina Legislature adjourned on the 28th of November at present, and there is no telling how long it will last. VANCE started out ahead, with McPHILMON holding a balance of power of some sixteen votes, and POOL receiving the whole Republican vote. VANCE holds his own so far, about seventy-two; but the Republicans are doing their best to appropriate the latter upon the thirteenth, and reducing POOL to fifty-eight.

A State Temperance Convention which met at Syracuse a few days ago proposed to petition the Legislature for the repeal of the License laws, the apparent objects being to convert one-fourth of the lowest class of dwelling houses in villages and cities into illicit rum shops, and to make a large proportion of the citizens of the State accessories to violation of law. At least, this is the way prohibition works in Puritan New England. It is not likely that it would work any better here.

After an eminently successful experience of thirty years, and with an accumulated capital of fifty-six millions of dollars, the old Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has resolved to reduce its rate of life insurance twenty percent. The reasons for this decision may be found in the correspondence published in the Standard.

The expediency and propriety of such a reduction have long been canvassed by the managers and the public; and while slow to make innovations upon long-established usage, it is pleasant to note that the company and its customers are at length in substantial accord. Of course, when so substantial a concession as a reduction of twenty per cent is decided upon so radical a change, the other companies must reduce their tariffs in the same proportion. The effect will be beneficial in a twofold sense. It will place the advantages of life insurance within the reach of the humblest, while it will enhance its security, for only the strongest and most reliable companies can take the step which will follow the example of the Mutual, while the speculative and unsubstantial companies which exist mainly that they may afford profitable employment to their officers will have to go to the wall for want of support.

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The *Christian Advocate*, a Methodist organ of this city, laments that "nothing assuring" can be said of the religious character of the late Secretary SEWARD, whose death, moreover, it asserts, "was, so far as is ascertained, absolutely destitute of faith or hope as to that great hereafter which would be his reward." But the *Advocate* to learn that at his decease Mr. SEWARD had been for nearly half a century a regular worshipper and communicant in the Protestant Episcopal Church; that during much of this time he had a parish office; that he had repeatedly acted as delegate to the annual conference of the Episcopal Church, and that he had finally died, according to the testimony of those who attended his death-bed, full of "faith and hope in the great hereafter." Mr. SEWARD was not a "professor of religion" in the sense in which many persons understand that phrase. He was not an emotional or demonstrative Christian. He never heard of conversion, dressing a missionary convention or taking part in a public prayer meeting; nor was he known to be active at the May anniversaries. But he had a long and written evidence of the depth and sincerity of his religious convictions which was written in the *Christian Advocate* might better have considered before attempting to cast a stigma on the fair fame of the departed statesman.

The *World* wants the Scottish system of juries introduced into America. The Scotch are a very curious and not very respectable people, but their jury system has not prevented the most terrible crimes ever perpetrated, nor has it prevented very curious results to very interesting criminal trials, such as the FLEMING trial in Glasgow, some ten or twelve years ago.

The Emperor of Germany is reported to have issued a decree creating twenty-five new Prussian peers. The persons thus ennobled have been taken from the ranks of the Government officials, generals of the army, and landholders. This creation of new peers is a measure adopted by the Emperor in consequence of the obsequy of the Prussian House of Lords in refusing its assent to the new County Reform bill, which has passed the Lower House. The Emperor's decree is a direct insult to the House of Lords, and a direct insult to the Prussian people, who are the true proprietors of Prussia. The Emperor's decree is a direct insult to the House of Lords, and a direct insult to the Prussian people, who are the true proprietors of Prussia.

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The Emperor of Germany is reported to have issued a decree creating twenty-five new Prussian peers. The persons thus ennobled have been taken from the ranks of the Government officials, generals of the army, and landholders. This creation of new peers is a measure adopted by the Emperor in consequence of the obsequy of the Prussian House of Lords in refusing its assent to the new County Reform bill, which has passed the Lower House. The Emperor's decree is a direct insult to the House of Lords, and a direct insult to the Prussian people, who are the true proprietors of Prussia. The Emperor's decree is a direct insult to the House of Lords, and a direct insult to the Prussian people, who are the true proprietors of Prussia.

It is said that the officers of the signal corps at Fort Mifflin are trying to teach a dog to carry the mail to and from the station. A correspondent of the Boston *Afternoon Herald* says that this is an inappropriate season for such instruction, there being four or five feet of snow on the ground, and that with a dog of good intelligence, quick perceptions, and ordinary docility, success may be easily reached. In support of this opinion he says that there is a tradition, coming through such sources as to authorize belief, that previous to the year 1760 the mail between Portsmouth, N. H., and Wells, Me., for seven years was regularly carried by a dog. The dog was a white one, and was named "Old Faithful," and was carried safely through, until at last, on one of his journeys, the faithful creature was killed by the Indians.

defaulter Provincial Assemblies. It is believed that this plan, which would virtually extinguish the hereditary principle in Prussian legislation, has the support of the Crown Prince, who is a pronounced Liberal. The probability of success of such a change would be likely to have a decided effect upon the impending action of the Prussian nobles.

The deadlock in the North Carolina Legislature on the election of United States Senators for continuance, and the possibility that no conclusion will be reached before an adjournment, the practice in that State is to adjourn over the holidays and reassemble in January, when the new State officers—in this case the old ones, who were re-elected—are sworn in. A strong effort is in progress on the part of the friends of JOSEF POOL to keep the conservative strength divided between VANCE and McPHILMON, in the hope that POOL himself may rise in by hook or by crook. The law of Congress of 1867, which provided for the election of United States Senators, provides that if no election is had upon a concurrent vote of the two branches of Assembly they shall meet in joint convention every day of the session, and take at least one ballot for Senator until a choice is effected or an adjournment is had. The North Carolina Legislature adjourned on the 28th of November at present, and there is no telling how long it will last. VANCE started out ahead, with McPHILMON holding a balance of power of some sixteen votes, and POOL receiving the whole Republican vote. VANCE holds his own so far, about seventy-two; but the Republicans are doing their best to appropriate the latter upon the thirteenth, and reducing POOL to fifty-eight.

A State Temperance Convention which met at Syracuse a few days ago proposed to petition the Legislature for the repeal of the License laws, the apparent objects being to convert one-fourth of the lowest class of dwelling houses in villages and cities into illicit rum shops, and to make a large proportion of the citizens of the State accessories to violation of law. At least, this is the way prohibition works in Puritan New England. It is not likely that it would work any better here.

After an eminently successful experience of thirty years, and with an accumulated capital of fifty-six millions of dollars, the old Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has resolved to reduce its rate of life insurance twenty percent. The reasons for this decision may be found in the correspondence published in the Standard.

The expediency and propriety of such a reduction have long been canvassed by the managers and the public; and while slow to make innovations upon long-established usage, it is pleasant to note that the company and its customers are at length in substantial accord. Of course, when so substantial a concession as a reduction of twenty per cent is decided upon so radical a change, the other companies must reduce their tariffs in the same proportion. The effect will be beneficial in a twofold sense. It will place the advantages of life insurance within the reach of the humblest, while it will enhance its security, for only the strongest and most reliable companies can take the step which will follow the example of the Mutual, while the speculative and unsubstantial companies which exist mainly that they may afford profitable employment to their officers will have to go to the wall for want of support.

The Turkish Government has determined that all instruction in the national schools shall be given in the national language, and this has caused an outcry among the professors who have been accustomed to teach the Turkish language in the schools. The Turkish Government has determined that all instruction in the national schools shall be given in the national language, and this has caused an outcry among the professors who have been accustomed to teach the Turkish language in the schools. The Turkish Government has determined that all instruction in the national schools shall be given in the national language, and this has caused an outcry among the professors who have been accustomed to teach the Turkish language in the schools.

In an address before the State Teachers' Institute at Suffolk, Conn., Secretary NORTHROP compared the American system of education with those of Europe. He said that our common schools are much superior to the popular schools of Europe, and that the American system of education with those of Europe. He said that our common schools are much superior to the popular schools of Europe, and that the American system of education with those of Europe.

No English, French, Russian, or other Admiral properly trained in the ways of his profession would dare to leave his command except upon urgent and special occasion, and with previous permission too, to trust his presence where he did not belong. The plain truth is, our squadron in Europe is a mere yacht and pleasure-seeking expedition, and the ships are used to magnify the importance of the Admiral. That is all about it. For this business the people are taxed twenty millions per annum, at the smallest figure.

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